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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/607,564	06/26/2003	Kulvir S. Bhogal	AUS920030166US1	5157
35525	7590	02/10/2006	EXAMINER PONIKIEWSKI, TOMASZ	
IBM CORP (YA) C/O YEE & ASSOCIATES PC P.O. BOX 802333 DALLAS, TX 75380			ART UNIT 2165	

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/607,564	Applicant(s) BHOGAL ET AL.	
	Examiner Tomasz Ponikiewski	Art Unit 2165	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/26/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: lines 11-12 state "to be used in a project". The statement pertains to intended use and as such has no patentable weight. Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 8, 12, 16 and 20 carry the same deficiency.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 3-6, 14, 15 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. Claims 3, 6, 14 and 15 are unclear in regard with what the result of determination and how it ties to the selection in the second part of the claim. Appropriate clarification is required.

Claims 4-5 are dependant on claim 3, therefore carry the same deficiency.

Art Unit: 2165

6. Claim 20 line 15-16 states "for each connection". It is unclear which connection it refers to. Clarification is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

7. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

8. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

9. Claim 20 is not limited to tangible embodiments. In view of Applicant's disclosure, specification page 20, lines 16-25, the medium is not limited to tangible embodiments, instead being defined as including both tangible embodiments (e.g., a hard disk drive) and intangible embodiments (e.g., light wave transmissions). As such, the claim is not limited to statutory subject matter and is therefore non-statutory. To overcome this type of 101 rejection the claims need to be amended to include only the physical computer media and not a transmission media or other intangible or non-functional media. For the this application transmission medium and transmission media would be not statutory but storage or recordable media would be statutory.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Art Unit: 2165

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

11. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rische (US. 2002/0107840 A1).

As per claim 1 Rische is directed to a method, in a data processing system, for providing context sensitive database assistance in an integrated development environment, the method comprising:

receiving a database query statement (page 2, paragraph 0023, line 5);

responsive to activation of a database assistance function, generating a database assistance interface based on at least a portion of the database query statement and database information for each database to be used in a project (page 1, paragraph 0009, lines 1-4; page 3, paragraph 0026, column 2, lines 1-6);

and responsive to user input, populating the database query statement (page 3, paragraph 0025, lines 13-15).

As per claim 2 Rische is directed to wherein the database assistance interface includes one of a database selection interface, a table selection interface, a column selection interface, a record insertion interface, a column value set interface, and a search condition interface (page 4, paragraph 0034, lines 16-19, wherein "interface" means "SQL interface").

As per claim 3 Rische is directed to further comprising: determining whether a table name in the database query statement is ambiguous, wherein the database assistance interface includes a table selection interface for selecting a table from a plurality of candidate tables (page 5, paragraph 0034, lines 5-8).

As per claim 4 Rische is directed to wherein the plurality of candidate tables exist in a plurality of databases (page 3, paragraph 0024, lines 5-11).

As per claim 5 Rische is directed to wherein the plurality of candidate tables exist in a plurality of schemas (page 3, paragraph 0028, lines 32-34).

As per claim 6 Rische is directed to further comprising: determining whether a column name in the database query statement is ambiguous, wherein the database assistance interface includes a column selection interface (page 6, paragraph 0060, lines 1-3).

Art Unit: 2165

As per claim 7 Rische is directed to wherein the database assistance interface presents metadata to assist a user (page 3, paragraph 0024, lines 15-16).

As per claim 8 Rische is directed to further comprising:
receiving database information for each database to be used in the project (page 3, paragraph 0023, lines 3-5; page 3, paragraph 0024, lines 1-5, wherein modification of databases requires receiving information about the databases);
and storing a local data model for each database (page 5, paragraph 0035, line 19).

As per claim 9 Rische is directed to wherein the step of storing a local data model includes:
connecting to a database (page 3, paragraph 0028, lines 11-13, where “connecting” means using Open database Connectivity);
retrieving a data model for the database (page 5, paragraph 0035, second column, lines 7-19, wherein “retrieving” means “projecting” and “data model” means “schema”);
and storing the data model for the database locally (page 5, paragraph 0035, lines 19).

As per claim 10 Rische is directed to wherein the step of storing a local data model includes:

connecting to each database (page 3, paragraph 0028, lines 11-13, where “connecting” means using Open database Connectivity);

determining whether a data model for each database has changed (page 3, paragraph 0034, lines 8, wherein update statement implies that data was modified);

and responsive to a data model for a database having changed, updating a local data model for the database (page 5, lines paragraph 0034, lines 8-9).

As per claim 11 Rische is directed to wherein the database information includes at least one of schema name, database name, username, password, and port number (page 3, paragraph 0024, lines 11-13).

As per claim 12 Rische is directed to an apparatus for providing context sensitive database assistance in an integrated development environment, the apparatus comprising:

receipt means for receiving a database query statement (page 2, paragraph 0023, line 5);

generation means, responsive to activation of a database assistance function, for generating a database assistance interface based on at least a portion of the database query statement and database information for each database to be used in a project (page 1, paragraph 0009, lines 1-4; page 3, paragraph 0026, column 2, lines 1-6);

and assistance means, responsive to user input, for populating the database query statement (page 3, paragraph 0025, lines 13-15).

As per claim 13 Rische is directed to further comprising: means for determining whether a table name in the database query statement is ambiguous, wherein the database assistance interface includes a table selection interface for selecting a table from a plurality of candidate tables (page 4, paragraph 0034, lines 16-19, wherein "interface" means "SQL interface").

As per claim 14 Rische is directed to further comprising: means for determining whether a table name in the database query statement is ambiguous, wherein the database assistance interface includes a table selection interface for selecting a table from a plurality of candidate tables (page 5, paragraph 0034, lines 5-8).

As per claim 15 Rische is directed to further comprising:
means for determining whether a column name in the database query statement is ambiguous, wherein the database assistance interface includes a column selection interface (page 6, paragraph 0060, lines 1-3).

As per claim 16 Rische is directed to further comprising:
means for receiving database information for each database to be used in the project (page 3, paragraph 0023, lines 3-5; page 3, paragraph 0024, lines 1-5, wherein modification of databases requires receiving information about the databases);

Art Unit: 2165

and means for storing a local data model for each connection (page 5, paragraph 0035, lines 19).

As per claim 17 Rische is directed to wherein the means for storing a local data model includes:

means for connecting to a database (page 3, paragraph 0028, lines 11-13, where “connecting” means using Open database Connectivity);

means for retrieving a data model for the database (page 5, paragraph 0035, second column, lines 7-19, wherein “retrieving” means “projecting” and “data model” means “schema”);

and means for storing the data model for the database locally (page 5, paragraph 0035, lines 19).

As per claim 18 Rische is directed to wherein the means for storing a local data model includes:

means for connecting to each database (page 3, paragraph 0028, lines 11-13, where “connecting” means using Open database Connectivity);

means for determining whether a data model for each database has changed (page 3, paragraph 0034, lines 8, wherein update statement implies that data was modified);

and means, responsive to a data model for a database having changed, for updating a local data model for the database (page 5, lines paragraph 0034, lines 8-9).

As per claim 19 Rische is directed to wherein the database information includes at least one of schema name, database name, username, password, and port number (page 3, paragraph 0024, lines 11-13).

As per claim 20 Rische is directed to a computer program product, in a computer readable medium, for providing context sensitive database assistance in an integrated development environment, the computer program product comprising:

instructions for receiving database information for each connection to be used in a project (page 3, paragraph 0023, lines 3-5, wherein modification of databases requires receiving information about the databases);

instructions for receiving a database query statement (page 2, paragraph 0023, line 5);

instructions for responsive to activation of a database assistance function, generating a database assistance interface based on at least a portion of the database query statement (page 1, paragraph 0009, lines 1-4; page 3, paragraph 0026, column 2, lines 1-6);

and instructions for responsive to user input, populating the database query statement (page 3, paragraph 0025, lines 13-15).

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure

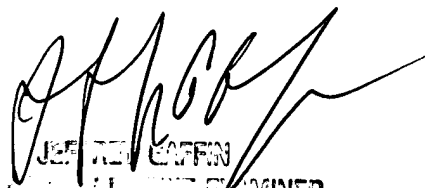
Mullins (US 2002/0091702 A1) teaches database manipulation and mapping.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tomasz Ponikiewski whose telephone number is (571)272-1721. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Gaffin can be reached on (571)272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tomasz Ponikiewski
January 31, 2006


JEFFREY A. GAFFIN
SUPERVISOR/ART UNIT EXAMINER
2006 JAN 31 17:00